

avow, that, to make them effectual, the system must be *prepared*, by bleeding, diet, and other medical means. Thus, also, the empiric is always the most successful with his nostrums *after* the regular physician has tried all his remedies. The Tractor of Perkins has fallen into disuse and oblivion. Is it uncharitable to predict the same fate for the Electromotor of Fozembas? R. M. P.

ART. XVIII.—*A Treatise on the Diseases of the Chest, and on Mediate Auscultation.*

By R. T. H. LAENNEC, M. D., Regius Professor of Medicine in the College of France, &c. &c. &c., translated from the third French edition with copious notes, a sketch of the author's life, and an extensive Bibliography of the different diseases, By JOHN FORBES, M. D. F. R. S. &c. &c. To which are added the notes of Professor ANDRAL, contained in the fourth and latest French edition, translated and accompanied with observations on cerebral Auscultation. By JOHN D. FISHER, M. D. Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society. With plates. New York, Samuel S. & William Wood, 1838, pp. 784, Pl. II.

THE Treatise of Laennec on the diseases of the Chest has become an established classic in medical literature. Its great merits are known and acknowledged, and to discuss them now might consequently be deemed presumptuous. We may be permitted, however, to call attention to the present edition which is the most complete extant. It is enriched by copious additions by Dr. Forbes, Professor Andral and Dr. Fisher, and may be considered as embracing a complete summary of our knowledge of the diseases of the thoracic organs. It should be in the hands of every student.

ART. XIX.—*A Lecture on Loaxarthrus or Club-foot.* By THOMAS D. MUTTER, M. D., Lecturer on Surgery; Fellow of the College of Physicians, &c. Philadelphia, 1839. pp. 104. 8vo.

THIS is an exceedingly interesting lecture. The various forms of club-foot—the pathological condition of the joints in each—the method of dividing the tendo Achillis, in order to bring down the heel; and the various apparatuses subsequently required for the cure of the deformity, are fully set forth and exemplified by figures. Appended is a report of twenty-eight cases treated by the author by the methods he describes.

We are unable to give an analysis of this lecture, as it would not be perfectly intelligible without figures, and we regret this the less as the work can be readily obtained by those who are interested in the subject.

We must not, however, neglect to correct an oversight, in relation to the operation of our correspondent, Dr. James H. Dickson of New York. After awarding to him the merit of being the first to perform the operation of dividing the tendo Achillis for the cure of club-foot in this country, Dr. Mutter observes, "Strange as it may seem, he has never, so far as I have been able to find, reported his case or the means by which the cure was attempted. A statement was promised, some time since, but has not I believe made its appearance." Now, "strange as it may seem," this statement was published in this Journal for November, 1838. p. 96, the very succeeding number to that in which the report was promised.

We may also state that loxarthrus is incorrectly used as synonymous with club-foot; it is a generic term (from *λοξος* oblique and *αρθρον* a joint) applied to all obliquities of joints without dislocation—as wry neck, club-foot, &c.

The following is the author's Resumé of his cases:—Of the 28 cases, 21 were congenital, and 7 acquired.

Varus, 19, Valgus 2, Pes equinus 7. In males 19, in females 9. Both feet were affected in 16, one only in 12. The right was deformed in 8, the left in 4.

Two were in children between birth and the first year; 9 in children between first and sixth year; 16 in persons between sixth and thirtieth year, and one in a person between thirtieth and fiftieth year.

Twenty were perfectly cured and 8 are under treatment.

One was cured in from ten days to four weeks; 9 were cured in from four weeks to two months; 10 were cured in from two to four months.

These results are highly creditable to the skill of the operator.

ART. XX.—*Practical Surgery: with one hundred and thirty Engravings on Wood.* By ROBERT LISTON, Surgeon. With notes and additional illustrations, by George W. Norris, M. D., one of the surgeons to the Pennsylvania Hospital. Philadelphia, James Crissy, 1838, pp. 374, 8vo.

In a former number of this Journal (for May 1838, p. 160), the original edition of Mr. Liston's *Practical Surgery* was noticed, and a very favourable opinion expressed of its merits. As confirmatory of this judgment, we may mention that within a year from its first appearance, a new edition was called for in England. We cannot doubt but that its merits will secure for it nearly equal success in this country.

The American edition is enriched by notices of the manner in which some of the more common surgical affections are treated with us; certain points lightly passed over by the author are fully elucidated, and the details of several American operations, remarkable for their rarity or originality, are given. These additions are important, and are written in good taste. They evince on the part of the editor, not only extensive and careful research, but also the possession of sound surgical judgment.

The work should be in the hands of every young surgeon.

ART. XXI.—*Tenth Annual Report of the Inspectors of the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania.* Philadelphia, 1839. pp. 28, 8vo.

THE portion of this document, more particularly interesting to our readers is, the physicians' report. The influence of confinement, especially solitary confinement, on the health of prisoners is now attracting great attention, and every contribution, however small, calculated to aid in settling the vexed questions relative to this subject, must be considered as valuable. We shall therefore present a full abstract of Dr. Darrach's report.

The number of prisoners received into the Eastern Penitentiary during the year 1838, were 178, of which 115, were white, and 63 coloured.

Of the 115 white 68 were in good, and 47 in imperfect health.

Of the 63 coloured 30 were in good, and 33 in imperfect health.

The diseases under which the 80 prisoners laboured are given as follows:—Syphilitic 39, thoracic 28, abdominal 15, febrile 11, cephalic 6, various 17, making 116 diseases. Of course some of the prisoners must have suffered from complications; what these were is unfortunately not stated.

"The prisoners discharged this year," Dr. Darrach observes, "classed in reference to health and colour, are—

1	White prisoners admitted and discharged in good health,	- - -	67	} 84 White.
2	do do admitted and discharged in imperfect health,	- - -	16	
3	do do discharged in better health than when received,	- - -	16	
	do do discharged in worse health than when received,	- - -	5	